

Message Text

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63

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 SP-03 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-07 PRS-01 CPR-02 SAM-01

DRC-01 /099 W

----- 042128

R 081510Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9971

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

USMISSION USUN

DIA

UNCLAS LISBON 2845

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PO

SUBJ: VEIGA SIMAO APPOINTED PORTUGUESE UN AMBASSADOR

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REF: LISBON 2700 (NOTAL)

1. PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT DATED JULY 5 ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSOR JOSE VEIGA SIMAO (FORMER EDUCATION MINISTER IN CAETANO REGIME AND A POLITICAL LIBERAL) AS PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR TO UNITED NATIONS. AS EXPECTED THIS APPOINTMENT HAS DRAWN SHARP ATTACKS FROM LEFT. BOTH COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST PARTIES HAVE ISSUED STRONGLY WORDED COMMUNIQUE'S ATTACKING NOMINATION TO POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY IN GOVERNMENT PERSONS "LINKED TO AND HIGHLY COMPROMISED WITH FASCIST POLICIES". COMMUNISTS SPECIFICALLY CRITICIZED VEIGA SIMAO BY NAME CLAIMING APPOINTMENT "WILL DISCREDIT THE NEW PORTUGUESE REGIME IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA AND WILL HINDER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW DIPLOMACY IN WHICH THE COLONIAL QUESTION AND THE FIRM RESOLVE TO ESTABLISH FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL PEOPLES IN THE WORLD MUST BE CONSTANT CONCERNS".

2. COMMENT: EMBASSY FEELS SIMAO WILL DO AN EXCELLENT JOB FOR GOP IN UN EVEN HOUGH HE HAS LITTLE FOREIGN EXPERIENCE. HE IS CLOSE TO PRESIDENT SPINOLA PERSONALLY AND REPORTEDLY SHARES MANY OF HIS IDEAS. HE IS TOUGH, SMART, HAS BOUNDLESS ENERGY, AND IS REPORTEDLY HIGHLY AMBITIOUS. HE SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH.

3. VEIGA SIMAO HAS SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE FRIENDLY TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HE HAS NEVER VISITED. HE PERSONALLY APPROVED A TRANSFER OF \$20,000 FROM THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION'S BUDGET LAST YEAR TO SUPPORT THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM BECAUSE HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE EXCHANGE MECHANISM OF THE PROGRAM COULD BENEFIT HIS EDUCATIONAL REFORM PROGRAM. HE EAGERLY ACCEPTED THE AMBASSADOR'S INVITATION TO VISIT THE US UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE DEPARTMENT'S INTERNATIONAL VISITORS' PROGRAM. DETAILS CONCERNING THE TIMING OF HIS VISIT WERE BEING WORKED OUT WHEN THE CAETANO GOVERNMENT WAS OVERTHROWN.

4. VEIGA SIMAO, 45, WAS LAST REMAINING LIBERAL IN CAETANO GOVERNMENT. AS EDUCATION MINISTER HE TRAVELLED UNCLASSIFIED

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WIDELY THROUGHOUT PORTUGAL PREACHING THE THEN RADICAL, FOR PORTUGAL, MESSAGE THAT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY WOULD HENCEFORTH BE BASED ON MERIT RATHER THAN WEALTH AND POSITION IN SOCIETY.
SCOTT

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